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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|----------------------|---|------------------|-----------|--|------------------|--|----------|--------------|------|--|
| 10/069,588 | 02/27/2002 | Keizo Akutagawa | Q68338 | 3867 | | | | | | | | |
| 7590 Sughrue Mion Zinn Macpeak & Seas 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20037 | | 03/08/2007 | <table border="1"><tr><td colspan="2">.EXAMINER</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">CULBRETH, ERIC D</td></tr><tr><td>ART UNIT</td><td>PAPER NUMBER</td></tr><tr><td>3616</td><td></td></tr></table> | | .EXAMINER | | CULBRETH, ERIC D | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | 3616 | |
| .EXAMINER | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CULBRETH, ERIC D | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3616 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 MONTHS | | 03/08/2007 | PAPER | | | | | | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. . 10/069,588 | Applicant(s) AKUTAGAWA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Eric Culbreth | Art Unit 3616 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7 and 11-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7 and 11-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1, 3-7 and 11-21 are objected to because of the following informalities: In the next to last line of claim 1, "vibration is micro-vibrations" should apparently be "vibration is a micro-vibration", as the former is not grammatically correct. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1, 3-7, and 11-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, lines 13-14, the recitation of "the vibration is micro-vibrations having a higher frequency than a response frequency of change in a behavior of a vehicle" is indefinite because it is unclear what constitutes the "response frequency". Though this term is mentioned in the specification, it has not been defined. Since the "response frequency" is undefined, one cannot know what frequency would be "higher" than the response frequency. Therefore, it is impossible to determine the frequency level defined by the claim.

The declaration filed under 37 CFR 1.132 filed 12/14/06 has been considered but deemed not persuasive in overcoming the rejection. First of all, expert opinion that a

disclosure meets 35 USC 112 is not be given weight in a 37 CFR 1.132 declaration (see MPEP 716.01(c)). Secondly, that one of the inventors would have an opinion that the claimed invention would be understood by one skilled in the art appears redundant and not pertinent to the rejection under 35 USC 112 2nd paragraph (the fact the applicant knows what is intended does not mean the claim particularly points out and distinctly claims the invention; the rejection under 112 2nd paragraph does not pertain what “one skilled in the art”—that is a rejection under 35 USC 112 first paragraph). Throughout the declaration, the applicant still fails to state exactly what response frequency is (note page 2, lines 4-5 where the declaration states the frequency occurs when control is established by means... “such as” ABS or driving or braking, and page 2, lines 13-14, where frequency may be the result of turning, applying brakes, driving the vehicle, controlling the ABS and brake the system, or even controlling the engine or the torque “for example”). While page 2 of the specification mentions a yaw rate sensor, the response frequency still is not defined at this text. It is unclear what is meant by “the vehicle body will be delayed” in line 8 of page 2, and the “inherent resonant frequency” at the end of page 2 is never mentioned let alone explained in the specification. Contrary to page 3 of the declaration, the pages from the reference book by John C. Dixon were not included with the response.

Conclusion

4. The claims are so indefinite that no determination could be made that they are patentable over the prior art at this time.

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Culbreth whose telephone number is 571/272-6668. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 9:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on 571/272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3616

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Eric Culbreth
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3616



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